SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

BIBLE OR NO BIBLE?

From the N. Y. Times. In the trial of what is now known as the "Cincinnati Bible Case," one of the counsel denied in plain terms that we have any right to be called a Christian nation, and argued at some length to show that Christianity had conferred no real benefits, even of a moral kind, upon the Luman race. Most people would be much shocked at this view, but it is the only view any one can consistently hold who demands that the Bible shall be made a proscribed book. When a man says "The Bible is a pernicious fiction, and cannot be read in public without doing injury to the hearers," we can understand his position. But it is not so easy to understand how any Christian minister can reconcile it with his duty to consent to place the Bible under a perpetual interdict, so far as our common schools are concerned, and to assert the principle that the daily reading of the Scriptures is too unimportant a privilege to be worth contending for.

People who enter into unworthy compremises usually find that they have sacrificed their own convictions without securing the object at which they aimed. The contest which is now forced upon us is pre-eminently one of this kind. We are asked to throw the Bible out of our schools-and for what? To conciliate the Roman Catholics? Not at all, for they have had the candor to tell us beforehand that they take very little interest in the question. "The issue," one of their journals has told us, "is not about the reading or not reading of the Bible in schools. We insist upon having this apprehended and acknowledged. Bible read, or Bible not read, in the public schools, cannot alter the objections of Catholics, obedient to their faith, against the popular method of public schools. We insist on having this recognized." This statement has been repeated by almost every Catholic who has discussed the question; and it is enforced afresh in the April number of a publication which may almost be regarded as the official organ of Catholicism in this country—the Catholic World. It is not, therefore, even to make peace that we are invited to expel the Bible from the schools, as if it were an exploded collection of old wives' fables. We are merely asked to proclaim in the face of the world that in our own opinion

we have arrived at a stage of perfection at which we can dispense with the revealed It is important to consider that we are not situated as a people would be who had just begun to found a national system of education. It is not a question with us of introducing the Bible into schools, but of deliberately ejecting it. If it were the former, we should, in the highest interests of future generations, counsel the use of the Bible. But when we are asked to reverse a settled policy at the instigation of those who are irreconcilably opposed to our entire free school system, how can we hesitate about the answer we ought to return? The pupils at present in our schools are suddenly to see the Bible turned out of doors with ignominy. What would be the impression created upon their minds? Would not every principle of religious faith in them be deeply outraged, if not severely shaken? Would it not be taken as a confession that we have found out that the Bible is a mischievous book? It may be said that they could still hear the Bible read at home. But only casuists say so. In practice, there are too few fathers and mothers who begin the day with reading a chapter in the Bible. They have no time, or think they have none. But they rejoice to know that the loftiest and most sublime appeals to man's nobler impulses and capabilities to which it can ever be our lot to listen, fall on their children's ears once a day in school. If they are infidels, they will yet admit that the Biblical code of ethics prescribes a method of life which is best calculated to insure happiness in time and after it. If they are sectarian bigots they may, indeed, wish to consign our Protestant Bible to the flames, as tyrants and persecutors have done in past ages, but shall we basely yield to their audacious conspiracies? Are we to be formally placed under the dominion of zealots of an alien faith? Roman Catholics say they want "free-dom of conscience." Yes—and so do we! We want to enjoy the privileges which our forefathers handed down to us, and for which they suffered innumerable hardships and dangers at a period when men were not ashamed of the faith that was in them. "Freedom of conscience" in the mouths of too many Roman Catholics means freedom of their consciences, and suppression of everybody else's. When foreigners come here they enjoy every freedom the heart of man can desire, but when they seek to overturn institions which exist for the general good, or to change us from a Protestant into a Roman Catholic people, they ought to fail-and they will fail while we are a great nation and not a degenerate race of cowards. "It will be a glorious day for Catholies in this country, says one of their journals, "when, under the blows of justice and morality, our school system will be shivered to pieces." We answer; It is beyond your power to destroy our school system. Try to do it, and you will rush to certain destruction. If we must have this fight, by all means let us have it quickly, and get done with it. Mankind will attest that in the transfer of the Old World conflict between Protestantism and Popery to the New World, Protestantism was not to blame. If the Church of aggression once more invites a trial of strength between herself and the Protestant principle, she must have it; but well will it be for her if she emerges from it without undergoing the most fatal reverses she has received since she lost England by her intolerance. As for us, we as a people ought to resolve, at once and forever, to defend the Bible and the common school system against any adversaries who can be arrayed against us, relying for success upon Him who has solemnly warned mankind. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but

my words shall not pass away. COTTON PLANTING.

From the Memphis Avalanche.

Our receipts of cotton to date sum up 231,010 bales, against 214,317 bales for the corresponding period last season, showing an increase of about ten per cent. From the 13th of March to the 31st of August, 1869, our receipts were 33,381 bales. Estimating that our receipts for the remainder of this season will maintain the rate of increase realized up to this time, the result for the entire season will approximate 268,000 bales. The receipts for the whole of last season were 247,698 bales. It is generally admitted, how-ever, that there is more cotton in the country than at this time last year, and it will not be surprising therefore if receipts should roll up a total of 275,000 bales. Estimating the

one product, and distributed among the planting community, will be close upon \$28,000,000. The bulk of this wealth will remain in our midst and be applied to the improvement and development of the country, the effect of which will be to promote the interests of our city in every way conceivable. Surely Memphis, surrounded by such elements of wealth as we have indicated, increasing from year to year, cannot fail to prosper and grow rapidly. It needs but wise local and State legislation, reduced taxation, a vigorous administration of the laws looking to the protection of life and property, enterprise, and a high standard of mercantile integrity, to ensure the doubling of our population and wealth within the next ten years. Since the war Memphis has labored under the most adverse circumstances, and that she has not only kept up but progressed is evidence of remarkable vitality. Our population is steadily on the increase and new interests are rapidly spring-ing up, the extent and influences of which will be more sensibly felt and recognized in the near future. Since September last, according to the books of one of our emigration agencies, the population of Memphis has been increased some four thousand from the Northwest, one thousand of whom are skilled mechanics, the others being laborers, and variously employed on the railroads and in shops, stores, foundries, gardens, and the like. The introduction of this element has been attended with the most gratifyiing results, and the stream will continue on an increasing scale. It is the class of population which will stick and prosper, and of which our city and section have been sorely in need. The malority of them are foreigners, but many are thoroughlyAmericanized so far as the language and customs of the country are concerned, and are well able to take care of themselves. In addition to this accession some nine thousand of the same class have located within a radius of one hundred and fifty miles of Memphis as plantation hands and small farmers, and give promise of thrift and prosperity almost unprecedented. The addition of this element to our planting interest will largely increase the products of our section and contribute to the advancement of Memphis in a greater measure than heretofore experienced It is safe to assume that the cotton trade of Memphis next season will not fall short of 300,000 bales at the lowest estimate, while a very marked increase in our general trade for the next few months is a foregone conclusion.

MAIDEN SPEECH OF THE COLORED SENATOR.

The motive which caused the Senate Chamber to be thronged with eager listeners was mere curiosity to witness a spectacle so a negro in the debates of the highest branch of our national legislature. Nobody supposed that anything said by a Senator so raw, so inexperienced, so untrained in public life and the proceedings of deliberative bodies, and so out of place in his new associations, could have any influence on the decision of the question debated. Nor could anybody have expected to learn anything of the capacity of the negro intellect from this exhibition. Revels is not a full-blooded negro, but an octoroon; or at least it was so stated by some of the Republican Senawhen he was admitted to his tors Whatever ability he may possess is seat. probably inherited from his white progenitors, as the talents of Fred. Douglass are from his white Maryland father. It is a striking illustration of the deep and ineradicable repugnance of the white to the negro race that no amount of dilution can remove the taint of negro blood, and that, in spite of seven parts in eight of white blood, Revels is classed as a negro, and is condemned, even by his ardent radical friends, to stand on the negro side of the gulf b which the two races are separated. If Revels were married to a white woman and had sons with only one-sixteenth of negro blood in their veins, there is no radical Senator who would permit his daughter to degrade herself, and forfeit her social caste, by uniting with one of them in marriage. The curiosity to hear Revels' speech was simple curiosity to hear a negro in the Senate, and it attests the ban of social ostracism which attends the slightest intermixture of negro blood.

Revels himself is fully conscious that the seven-eighths of white blood which flows in his veins cannot redeem him into classification with the white race, and he accepts his position as a black sheep in the Senatorial flock. He recognizes the impassable barrier, and regards himself as a representative of the black race, and as identified with its interests. The crowds that flocked to hear him merely because he is a negro bore unwitting testimony to the ineffaceable distinction which separates the two races, and which no legislation can obliterate. He is seveneighths a white man, and yet is irreversibly doomed to be classed as a negro, and is universally recognized by the negroes as a representative of their race. This is a signal proof of the ostracising taint which inheres in negro blood. No fraction of it can pass the insuperable line which divides the two

We are more willing to find reasons to commend the negro Senator's speech than to depreciate it; for, though it cannot have the weight of a feather on the legislation of Congress, its influence upon his own race is of some importance. His position in the Senate secures him the attention of all the negroes in the country. All of them who can read will read his speech; and to those who cannot it will either be read by others, or they will get a general idea of its contents by description. It is of no small public consequence that those who are likely to be leaders of the negro mind should exert a beneficial influence. The weight of Revels in Congress is too despicable to be regarded; but his power to mould the ideas and train the sentiments of the negroes is very considerable, and in this view his speech must be looked at as something more than a transient topic of

stupid Radical curiosity.
In point of ability, it is beneath serious criticism. It is easy and fluent enough in language; but it is merely sentimental, not argumentative, and is garnished with stale quotations of poetry, as if the recitation of such scraps could have any effect on legislation. But such school-boy decorations are well enough adapted to the negro mind on which the speech will operate, and may help the influence of the speech in the only quarter where it can be of any consequece. If the negroes think it fine, and esteem its trash as eloquence, they will the more readily fall in with the sentiments it is meant to inculcate. The only question in which the white public can be interested is, whether these

sentiments are salutary.

The particular side of the Georgia question which Revels espoused is not worth regarding, that being a matter in which he had no choice, and was obliged to take his cue from his radical patrons in the Senate. But the grounds

money handled by our merchants for character were selected by himself, and do him no discredit. If what he singles out as topics of enlogy are accepted by his negro constituents as just grounds of pride, the speech is calculated to do good. We hope it may steady and confirm them in the sentiments and conduct for which they are praised. Mr. Revels dwells, with warmth and satisfaction, on the fidelity of the negroes to the families of their masters in the late civil war. He makes it a merit that they did not then rise in insurrection; that they took no advantage of the belpless and exposed condition of the wives and children of their employers, but served and protected them with dutiful obedience throughout a struggle in which their own freedom was at stake. It cannot be disputed that their faith fulness in such a season of temptation was creditable to their character; and when they find themselves praised for it by their own Senator, and see it put forward as a ground of confidence in their moderation and good intentions, they are taught to measure their conduct by a really excellent standard. And to when Mr. Revels disclaims, in their behalf. any intention to thrust themselves into power and domineer over the whites, the disclaimer ought to operate as an inculcation of duty. So far as they defer to his opinion and respect his judgment, they must regard his disavowments as furnishing the rule by which their political aspirations ought to be restrained. If they will act in the spirit for which they are credited by their Senator, and make a merit of their moderation and fidelity, they will greatly increase their chances of cordial, pleasant relations with their white fellow-citizens.

TENNESSEE AND MISSOURI. From the St. Louis Republican.

Two precisely similar wrongs ought to have precisely the same remedy by all rules of justice and science. But we are about to have an example in which the name of the patient is to make a difference of treatment which the case itself does not suggest nor call for. The radicals want to rule Tennessee, and have adopted a plan to gain their end. Butler shouts "murder" in the House, and a committee of Tennessee radicals wait upon the President with a grievous complaint of "outrages on loyal men," which nobody ever heard of, and ask for troops to be sent to the State. The President, we are told, has made up his mind to send the troops if Governor Senter will make a request for them; and, if Governor Senter does not make such a request, he will send them anyhow, on the plea of sustaining the Federal officers in enforcing the revenue laws. As there is no notable opposition to the collection of the revenue in Tennessee, not one-fourth as much as there has been in Philadelphia and New York, where no troops were thought necessary, this plea must be regarded as only a pretext for doing odd and extraordinary as the participation of a thing which it has been decided to do, for another reason. Such a step is not only unwarranted by law, and unworthy the President, but is in direct opposition to his own conduct in the lawless radical war in Lafayette county, Missouri, in 1867. In that case an organized mob of radical ruffians called State militia, sent by the Governor of the State, drove off the Federal revenue assessor, Richard Vaughan, threatened to kill him if he should attempt to return, threatened the life also of the United States commissioner, Amos Green, and held the peaceful citizens under a reign of terror. General Grant, then General of the army, happened to come to St. Louis at the time these outrages were being committed, and was appealed to for protection against them. At first he thought he had no right to send troops to Lafayette county, without a request from the Governor of the State; but, it being represented that he had a right to send them to protect the threatened lives of the Federal officers, he yielded, reluctantly, so far as to order a few troops from Leavenworth to the scene of lawlessness. But the radical press began to denounce the act as an illegal and unwarrantable Federal interference in the affairs of a State, and to hint to the future radical nominee for the Presidency that he had better limit himself to the bounds of his authority. The general of the army took the hint, withdrew the troops almost as soon as they had arrived on the spot, and left the United States Revenue Assessor, the United States Commissioner, and the unoffending people of Lafayette county, to the fury of Governor Fletcher, Bacon Montgomery, and the militia who robbed Mitchell's bank, and dragged Mr. Berry, editor of the Richmond Freeman, to Lexington, with a rope round his neck, after having smashed his type. All these things General Grant did not regard as giving him any warrant for interfering in the affairs of Missouri, but a much less grievous condition of things, we are told, has determined him to interfere in the affairs of Tennessee. As Missouri was governed by the party which afterwards voted for him for President, while Tennessee is under the more peaceful rule of a party that did not vote for him -are we to accept such insufficient and personal consid-

> THE TWO MISSING STEAMERS. From the N. Y. Herald.

dent's important official acts?

erations as this, as the motives for the Presi-

The villanous and senseless hoax which, through the telegraphic news agency of the Associated Press, was perpetrated upon this community on Wednesday, in reference to the missing steamer, the City of Boston, very naturally excited the public indignation. But the virtuous declarations on the part of the responsible news agency of active efforts to solve the mystery, and their offer of a reward of five hundred dollars for the discovery of the author of the canard, do not repair the mischief. The telegraphic operator who sent over the despatch permitted his zeal, perhaps, to outrun his discretion in giving as a positive fact some loose conjecture or idle rumor floating in the street. No such thing as this, however, should be permitted in any tele graph office. The duty of every such office, where an irresponsible report is handed in, involving an important matter of fact, is to inquire concerning it in the right quarter before, and not after, sending off such report as a fact; and this rule, it is to be hoped, will be more carefully observed hereafter than it has been by the news agency of the Associated Press.

We do not, however, yet abandon all hope of authentic news of the safety of the City of Boston, disheartening as it is to think of her chances after being forty-nine days out from Halifax and no authentic report concerning her. Our latest news from the Azores Islands, however, is of the 26th of February, since which date the steamer may have drifted in there. With eight or ten days later intelligence from Fayal, if we hear nothing of her we shall be thrown back upon the painful conclusion that, crushed, perhaps, among ice-bergs, or suddenly foundered in a heavy storm, she has gone down, like the President, the Pacific, the City of Glasgow, and the Tempest, leaving not a soul or a vestige affoat to tell the point on the sea or the nature of

value of the cotton at \$100 per bale, the | on which he attempted to vindicate the negro | her disaster. But still we hold to the chance

of the Azores Islands. Some distrust is also beginning to be felt as to the safety of the Cunard steamer Samaria, now eighteen days out from Queens town, bound for this port. The Canarders have been so remarkably punctual in their trips at all seasons that, where one of those steamers is concerned, a detention of four or five days beyond her appointed time is a mat-ter for some apprehensions of at least a disabling accident. But the Samaria, we dare say, has suffered nothing worse than the Smidt, and we may expect a report at any moment of her appearance at the Hook. In real stormy wintry weather the passing winter seems to have been crowded into the month of March, and so the lengthening of a steamer's passage six, eight or ten days across the Atlantic is no cause for any great anxiety.

THE FALSE EXCUSE FOR OUR DIS-GRACE.

From the N. Y. Sun. The apologists for General Grant's neglect of his duty to protect American citizens in Cuba set up as an excuse that the Navy Department is helpless, and that Admiral Porter has no ships to send to the West Indies

for such a purpose.

How false this pretense is may be seen from the fact that the Benicia, "a magnificent sloop-of-war, carrying a battery of fourteen guns of heavy calibre," sailed from Boston on Saturday, the 5th inst., for Rio on her way to China and Japan; that the Alaska, sloop-of-war, likewise carrying fourteen guns, is to sail for the same destination today; and the great frigate Colorado, carrying forty-nine hundred-pounders, is nearly ready to join them. If the administration were governed by common sense and American feeling, instead of being in the interest of Spain, it would not pretend that it had no ships with which to save the lives and property of our citizens in Cuba, when it is sending these three fine vessels to China, where there is no pressing need for them. Neither would it employ one or two of the men-of-war that belong to the existing West India squadron in carrying President Baez of St. Domingo about on pleasure tripsjust as the Tallapoosa was kept here to carry that great bon vivant, Mr. Robeson, about on pleasure trips last summer when she was imperiously required for duty on the coasts

of Cuba. One great difficulty with this administration is that it thinks a great deal of its own pleasure and very little of its duties. General Grant desires Congress to adjourn early in order that he may enjoy the pleasures of Long Branch, Saratoga, free travelling, and free entertainment in all parts of the country. Mr. Fish administers the Government in the interest of Spain, and leaves our citizens and consuls to be mobbed and murdered in Cuba; and he has for his reward the pleasure of complying with the wishes of his son-in-law, the Spanish agent. Admiral Porter carries on the navy for his own pleasure, and sends our ships everywhere but where they are wanted. Mr. Robeson eats rich dinners, looking upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright, and great, no doubt, is his pleasure; and among them all, the United States is become the scorn of the world, and the citizen of the pettiest dukedom in Germany is safer and more respected in any foreign land than the citizen of this famous and mighty Government.

GOLLADAY. From the Lexington (Ky.) Gazette. Before the name of this individual shall have become embalmed in infamy or sink to an infamous oblivion, we would say a few words by way of expressing the indignation which all Kentuckians feel at his most abhorred conduct. He has confessed the crime with which he has been charged, and for the paltry sum of \$2000 has brought shame upon this old Commonwealth and caused a blush to mantle the cheek of every man who hears his name mentioned. We might have expected such conduct from carpet-baggers, scalawags, and niggers, but that a white man, represent ing a Kentucky Democratic constituency, should sell himself to the devil for \$2000. is a sin and a shame that passes our comprehension. He resigned, but we hope that the Governor will not accept it. He should be made to face the music, and to stand up in his place in Congress to receive the sentence of expulsion amidst the jeers and scoffs of the House, galleries, niggers and all, and then to be branded with infamy eternal. If he is guilty, and we see no escape from it, we do hope that his constituency will hang him as high as Haman was hung if he should ever put his foot on Kentucky soil again. He is attempting to bully it out by announcing himself as a candidate for re-election. This is all sham. He would as soon go into a cage of hyenas as to return to the people whom he has disgraced and outraged. He is the first Kentuckian that has ever disgraced himself in a high office, and may his punishment be so terrible as forever to deter another from the commission of a like offense.

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